

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 /081 W

-----010750Z 092570 /14

R 310955Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 687

INFO DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS BANGKOK 6994

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL PERSONS DETAINED FOR QUESTIONING

REF: (A) BANGKOK 6819 (B) BANGKOK 6778

1. THAI POLICE ANNOUNCED MAR 30 THAT THREE ADDITIONAL NEWSMEN HAVE BEEN DETAINED FOR QUESTIONING IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAR 26 COUP ATTEMPT. ALSO DETAINED WAS COL. ANUP PAKPRAYUN, FORMER CHIEF AIDE OF THE LATE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE POLICE, GEN. PHAO SIYANON, WHO WAS DISMISSED FROM OFFICE AFTER THE 1957 COUP. THE THREE NEWSMEN ARE SOMBUN SAPPHOKPHUN AND SIRA DIRAPHAT OF THE CHAO THAI EDITORIAL STAFF AND SOMCHAI ROEKDI, A DAILY NEWS COLUMNIST. ALL WERE ALLEGEDLY SEEN IN ONE OF SITES HELD BY THE COUP PLOTTERS ON MAR 26.

2. ACCORDING TO A MAR 31 BANGKOK WORLD ARTICLE, POLICE SOURCES HAVE REPORTED THAT WIRA MUSIKKAPHONG, FORMER LIBERAL DEMOCRAT MP FROM BANGKOK AND PRESENTLY A COLUMNIST FOR THE CHAO THAI NEWSPAPER, SURRENDERED TO THE POLICE ON MAR 31 FOR QUESTIONING ABOUT HIS POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT IN THE COUP  
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ATTEMPT. HE WAS ALSO SENT TO THE BANG KHEN POLICE PRIVATE SCHOOL FOR DETENTION AND FURTHER QUESTIONING. WITH WIRA'S DETENTION SEVEN CIVILIANS AND ONE ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY OFFICER ARE REPORTEDLY UNDER ARREST OR DETENTION.

3. THE POLICE HAVE TWO SPECIAL COMMITTEES TO INVESTIGATE THE EVENTS OF MAR 26. IN ADDITION TO THESE TWO COMMITTEES,

RTA CINC GEN. SOEM NA NAKHON HAS FORMED A SPECIAL COMMITTEE HEADED BY LTG CHET PHONGSAK, ADVISOR TO THE RTA, TO INVESTIGATE THE ARMY ASPECTS OF THE COUP ATTEMPT.

4. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION IN BANGKOK ABOUT OTHER ARRESTS STILL TO COME. POLICE VIGOROUSLY DENIED A NEWSPAPER REPORT IN THAI RATH MAR 30 WHICH NAMED SEVEN ACTIVE DUTY OFFICERS WHO WERE REPORTEDLY ON A LIST OF THOSE WANTED FOR QUESTIONING. THEY CAUTIONED THE NEWSPAPER TO RETRACT STORY, WHICH THE PAPER DID IN THE LATE EDITION OF MAR 30 AND THE MORNING EDITIONS OF MAR 31.

5. WHILE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED ON SUSPICION OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE COUP, AND OTHERS WILL POSSIBLY BE QUESTIONED ABOUT THEIR ACTIVITIES ON MAR 26, IT SHOULD BE CLEAR THAT THERE HAVE NOT RPT NOT BEEN LARGE-SCALE ARRESTS TO DATE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, TH, (ANUP PAKPRAYUN), (PHAO SIYANON), (SOMBUN SAPPHOKPHUN), (SIRA DIRAPHAT), (SOMCHAI ROEKDI)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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